

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 PM-03 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RBRESSLER:CHG

APPROVED BY AF - MR BLAKE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032775

TOSEC 144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MA, PGOV, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE ASSASSINATED; MILITARY
DIRECTORY FORMED

REF: TOSEC 090 (STATE 31507)

1. IT HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED THAT MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE
RATSIMANDRAVA WAS KILLED FEBRUARY 11 ONLY 6 DAYS AFTER HE
ASSUMED OFFICE. POLICE OFFICERS FROM RIVAL ETHNIC GROUPS
WERE APPARENTLY RESPONSIBLE. IDEOLOGY OR FOREIGN POLICY DO
NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FACTORS IN THE ASSASSINATION.
BRIGADIER GENERAL GILLES ANDRIAMHAZO, NUMBER TWO MAN IN
RATSIMANDRAVA'S GOVERNMENT, HEADS A NEWLY FORMED 18-MAN
MILITARY DIRECTORY REPRESENTING ALL SIX PROVINCES OF THE
COUNTRY WHICH APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONING, AT LEAST PRO-
VISIONALLY, AS A GOVERNMENT. GENERAL ANDRIAMHAZO, WHO HAS
BEEN A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT SINCE THE MILITARY TOOK
OVER IN 1972, HAS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S.

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2. ON FEBRUARY 12 THE GOVERNMENT, AFTER CALLING FOR SUR-
RENDER, ATTACKED WITH AIRPLANES AND ARMORED VEHICLES THE
POLICE HEADQUARTERS STRONGHOLD OF THE DISSIDENT FORCES
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE
THAT MANY DISSIDENTS HAVE SURRENDERED AND THE SHOOTING HAS
DIED DOWN. AS FAR AS WE KNOW NONE OF THE APPROXIMATELY
200 AMERICANS IN THE TANANARIVE AREA WAS HURT. SO FAR

THE VIOLENCE HAS BEEN CONFINED TO TANANARIVE, BUT AS

NEWS OF THE ATTACKS ON THE DISSIDENTS REACHES OUTLYING
PROVINCES THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT RIOTS MIGHT OCCUR
IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

3. THE NEW MILITARY DIRECTORATE WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW
THE QUOTE NON-ALIGNED UNQUOTE FOREIGN POLICY OF ITS
PREDECESSORS. WE ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR NASA
STATION WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY ON IN VIEW OF
ANDRIAMAHAZO'S PAST SUPPORT OF IT.

INGERSOLL

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